

# SAN DIEGO FIRE WEATHER



2015

ANNUAL SUMMARY

## RED FLAG WARNING VERIFICATION FOR 2015

In 2015, there were only four days in the NWS San Diego County Warning Area on which Fire Weather Watches/Red Flag Warnings were in effect and/or Fire Weather Events were occurring, a dramatic decrease from the 39 days in 2014. Yet another dry winter led to the issuance of a Red Flag Warning during a Santa Ana even in mid-April. An active monsoon season across the entire forecast area, including widespread rain from the remnants of tropical systems, led to a second green-up in late summer. There were only two fires of note in 2015, both of which occurred in the summer – the Lake fire in the San Bernardino National Forest, which burned over 31,000 acres, and the North Fire, also in the San Bernardino National Forest, which burned approximately 4,250 acres. The North Fire crossed southbound Interstate 15, destroying 20 vehicles and damaging 10 others. Neither of these fires occurred during Red Flag conditions. Several more weak to moderate offshore flow events occurred during the fall and early winter. Many of these events immediately followed wetting rains. Only one event, in late November, warranted a Red Flag Warning. The office issued a total no Fire Weather Watches and 12 Red Flag Warnings in 2015. Half of all the Red Flag Warnings issued verified (6 out of the 12). However, 4 out of the 6 unverified warnings occurred in the San Bernardino Mountains and Orange County Inland zones, where observations that capture offshore flow events are few and far between. All warnings this year were for synoptic events (sustained winds  $\geq 25$  mph and/or gusts  $\geq 35$  mph and RH  $\leq 15\%$  for 6 hours or more).

| 2015 Red Flag Warning Totals |    |       |         |
|------------------------------|----|-------|---------|
| Total # of Warnings          | 12 | POD   | 1.00    |
| Total # of Events            | 6  | FAR   | 0.50    |
| Verified Warnings            | 6  | CSI   | 0.50    |
|                              |    | ALT   |         |
| Missed Warnings              | 0  | (Min) | 2005.67 |
|                              |    | ALT   |         |
| Unverified Warnings          | 6  | (Hrs) | 33.43   |
|                              |    | Total |         |
| Watches issued               | 0  | Min   | 12034   |
| Verified Watches             | 0  |       |         |
| Warnings Preceded by         |    |       |         |
| Watches                      | 0  |       |         |

| 2015 Red Flag Warning Synoptic Totals |    |       |         |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------|---------|
| Total # of Warnings                   | 12 | POD   | 1.00    |
| Total # of Events                     | 6  | FAR   | 0.50    |
| Verified Warnings                     | 6  | CSI   | 0.50    |
|                                       |    | ALT   |         |
| Missed Warnings                       | 0  | (Min) | 2005.67 |
|                                       |    | ALT   |         |
| Unverified Warnings                   | 6  | (Hrs) | 33.43   |
|                                       |    | Total |         |
| Watches Issued                        | 0  | Min   | 12034   |
| Warnings Preceded by                  |    |       |         |
| Watches                               | 0  |       |         |

## 2015 Red Flag Warning Dry T-Storm Totals

|                                 |   |       |    |
|---------------------------------|---|-------|----|
| Total # of Warnings             | 0 | POD   | NA |
| Total # of Events               | 0 | FAR   | NA |
| Verified Warnings               | 0 | CSI   | NA |
|                                 |   | ALT   |    |
| Missed Warnings                 | 0 | (Min) | NA |
|                                 |   | ALT   |    |
| Unverified Warnings             | 0 | (Hrs) | NA |
|                                 |   | Total |    |
| Watches Issued                  | 0 | Min   | 0  |
| Warnings Preceded by<br>Watches | 0 |       |    |

## 2015 SPOT FORECASTS

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Total Spot Forecasts for 2015.....             | <b>466</b> |
| Total Spot Forecasts for Wildfires.....        | 151        |
| Total Spot Forecasts for Prescribed Burns..... | 302        |
| Total Spot Forecasts for Search and Rescue...  | 11         |
| Total Spot Forecasts for Hazmat.....           | 2          |

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The National Weather Service in San Diego issued a total of 466 written Spot Forecasts in 2015, supporting a variety of federal, state and local agencies within the district. This is an increase from the number of Spot Forecasts that were issued in 2014.

Approximately 32 percent of this year's spot forecasts were issued for wildfires, similar to 2014. Only 3 percent were in support of other types of incidents (HAZMAT and SAR).

The majority of Spot Forecasts were issued in support of prescribed burning operations, accounting for approximately 65 percent of the annual total.

## **INCIDENT METEOROLOGIST (IMET) DISPATCHES FOR 2015**

There were no IMET dispatches from NWS San Diego in 2015. However, there was one IMET dispatch to the forecast area for the Lake Fire.

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**Total Days of IMET support from NWS San Diego in 2015: 0 DAYS**

Total Number of Dispatches from NWS San Diego: 0 Dispatches

## **FIRE WEATHER TRAINING 2015**

Alex Tardy (WCM) taught the weather observation portions of the following courses in 2014:

| <u>Course Name</u> | <u>Fire Departments/Users</u> | <u>Dates</u>  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| WIMS Training      | Cleveland NF                  | June 23, 2015 |

Stefanie Sullivan (IMET) attended the following fire weather related courses:

|                                     |                |                   |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ICS-300/400                         | San Diego, CA  | March 23-26, 2015 |
| IMET Workshop/Refresher<br>Training | NIFC Boise, ID | April 7-11, 2015  |

## **ADDITIONAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

**Feb 12, 2015** – Alex Tardy attended a planning meeting for the San Diego County Wildfire Drill

**April 22-24, 2015** – Stefanie Sullivan and Jimmy Taeger gave weather briefings and participated in the San Diego County Annual Wildfire Drill

**May 15, 2015** - Alex Tardy presented a weather outlook at the San Diego County Annual Wildland Forum

**July 21, 2015** – Alex Tardy gave a fire weather presentation at the Civ/Military Liaison meeting with San Diego County OES

**Sept 19, 2015** – Alex Tardy participated in the Riverside City Fire 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair

**Nov 19, 2015** – Alex Tardy gave a talk on El Nino at the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

WFO San Diego implemented the new Fire Weather zones in Feb 2015.

WFO San Diego is working with San Bernardino County and San Bernardino National Forecast to add or re-locate a number of RAWS and other mesonet sites to better capture offshore flow events.